

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT Movement for the Denunciation of Misfortunes and Injustices (Cong Tac To Kho Cue)

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. In early February 1953 the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) launched a new movement in Interzones III and IV called the Movement for the Denunciation of Misfortunes and Injustices (Cong Tac To Kho Cue). A similar movement was launched in the Viet Bac in about November 1952. This denunciation system has not yet been applied generally and in a uniform manner in Interzone IV, but according to popular opinion, it will be very soon.
2. This system consists of permitting the poor classes to denounce the injustices that they have suffered in the past, as far back as 1943, and to force the privileged classes to pay their "debts". For example, a tenant can denounce the "exploitations" that he suffered at the hands of the landowners. Depending on the case, the landowner may either be directed to return to the tenant what he owes him, or else may be imprisoned. The DRV has not yet clearly defined what constitutes "exorbitant exploitation". Judgements in the various cases are still pronounced by popular conferences and vary in severity according to the region and according to the individual being tried.
3. The denunciation system is promoted chiefly by members of the Farmers' Patriotic Association (Nong Dan Cuu Quoc). Cells of the Association convene secret meetings at which they draw up lists of proprietors and the charges made against them. The reports are then sent to the DRV regional branch¹ and the local Administrative and Resistance Committee. If the latter organization approves the indictment, a group of farmers is convened to formally judge the defendant. When a landowner is denounced he is always found guilty and his rice fields and other property are confiscated. However, a few acres of land are usually left to him to enable him to raise enough food to live on.

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4. Some mass arrests have been made, either because the indicated persons pleaded an inability to pay their "debts", or because of an attitude of revolt against the movement. Some prominent persons of the region who had previously been spared for various reasons, have just been arrested. It is estimated that the number of arrests within Nghe An Province has reached 20,000.²
5. Land owners who made their fortunes through agriculture, called plunderers by the Communists, are always severely sentenced. Offenders who inherited their holdings receive a less-severe penalty. However, the Communists consider the parents of such persons to have been plunderers.
6. An example of the way an offender is punished is as follows: The offender owns three houses: a two-story house, a one-story house, and a thatched hut. If the offender is condemned as a plunderer, he and his family are deprived of the use of any of the houses and have to move into the barn. The two-story house is then assigned for the use of the families who were victimized. However, if the charges against the offender are not too serious, he might be allowed to live in the one-story house or the thatched hut. His rice fields, except for one or two acres, would also be confiscated. The offender is promised more land if he behaves well.

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1. Comment. Presumably the regional branch of the Farmers' Patriotic Association.

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2. Comment. It is not known what method was used to arrive at this figure.

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